

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 84-95, 98, 99, 101-116, 119-130, 140, 141, and 143 are now pending in this application. Claims 84, 101, and 119 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-83, 96-97, 100, 117-118, 131-139 and 142 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 84, 98, 101, 119 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Indication of Patentable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 97, 117, and 131 recited patentable subject matter and these claims would have been allowable if rewritten in independent to include all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. By the present Amendment, Applicants have:

- (1) cancelled claim 97 and intervening claim 96 and amended base claim 84 to recite the features of these cancelled claims 96 and 97;
- (2) cancelled claim 117 and amended base claim 110 to recite the features of cancelled claim 117; and
- (3) cancelled claim 131 and amended base claim 119 to recite the features of cancelled claim 119.

Applicants have also made various minor formal amendments to the independent claims to improve their form.

Accordingly, because each of the three independent claims (claims 84, 101, and 119) now includes subject matter indicated as patentable, Applicants respectfully submit that all three of the pending independent claims are now in allowable form.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 50-4438.

Respectfully submitted,

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